

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed 03/20/2008, with respect to Claims 1 & 3-33 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of 102 and 103 have been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Thomsen on 06/09/08. The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 41-51 have been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1 & 3-33 are allowed. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claims 1 & 3-33 disclose a method for the measuring and monitoring of a volume of a liquid droplet as it is being discharged from a liquid dispensing system. The prior art of record does not disclose nor suggest the limitations of electrically energizing the liquid with an AC current and measuring the capacitance induced in an electrically conductive member sited adjacent the tip as the liquid is being discharged from the nozzle.

Telephonic Inquiries

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BOBBY RAMDHANIE whose telephone number is (571)270-3240. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8-5 (Alt Fri off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Walter Griffin can be reached on 571-272-1447. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/B. R./

/Walter D. Griffin/
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